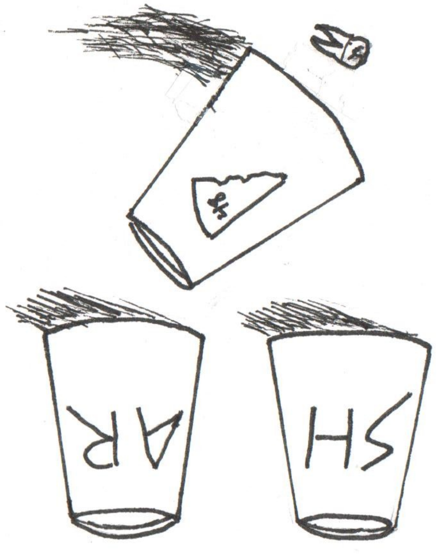
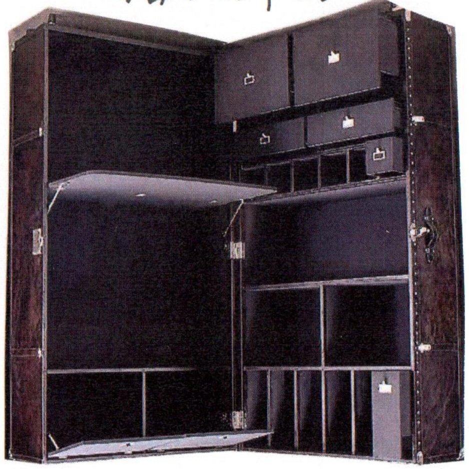




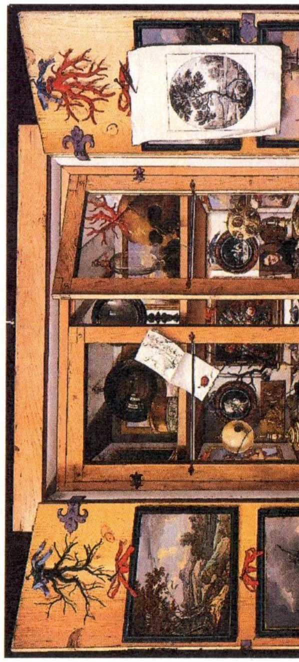
so I saw this recently - an office in a steamer trunk. A steal at only $11,600.00... Still, imagine taking your office with you on the road and unfolding it wherever you find yourself that day. Perfect for multi-branch systems?

...Yet more songs stuck in my head lately

"No Diggity" / Blackstreet
"Don't Worry" / Xenoblade Chronicles X soundtrack
"Do I Creep You Out?" / Weird Al Yankovic
"Rock the Boat" / Hues Corporation
"Serenade for Strings in E Major" / Antonin Dvořák
"City of New Orleans" / Arlo Guthrie
"Here Comes the Hotstepper" / Ini Kamoze
"The Finer Things" / Steve Winwood
"By the Way" / Red Hot Chili Peppers

"Cabinet of Curiosities"

Domenico Remps, c. 1690s



"If I don't drive around the park,
I'm pretty sure to make my mark.
If I'm in bed each night by ten,
I may get back my looks again.
If I abstain from fun and such,
I'll probably amount to much.
But I shall stay the way I am,
Because I do not give a damn."

-Dorothy Parker

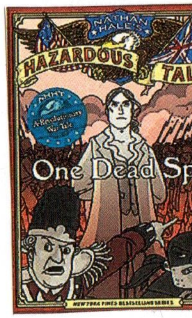
Thomas Vose CC-BY-NC 1/28/26
trvose@hotmail.com

In 1953, Indiana's textbook commission proposed to ban Robin Hood for being Communist propaganda - this was at the height of the McCarthy era.

In response, Indiana University students formed the "Green Feather Movement" in support of intellectual freedom and the right to protest - the administration rejected the group but it spread to other schools, ending when McCarthy's downfall took place.

You Should Read →

(this entire series, really - this is just the first one)



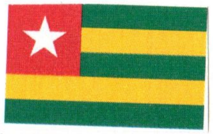
Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales is an excellent graphic novel series that is extremely well-illustrated and threads the needle expertly on its historical topics (Harriet Tubman, the Donner Party, WWI and many more) between humor and the reverence that is their due. A great intro to history for kids, but adults can enjoy it too - I certainly do.

## SINCE LAST TIME ... ①

- Ate a shitload of latkes
- Found my tiny cannon
- Went on a Dvořák kick
- Concocted a holiday punch that required muddling
- Learned that sharks are older than Saturn's rings
- Lost to kids a bunch at Mario Kart
- Made a futile search for the perfect coat
- Sent a whole lot of mail
- Scorched my hair, whoops
- Commissioned a library-shaped cake
- Learned about museums using beetles to clean bones
- Discovered that I miss certain speaking cadences
- Gifted 19th century newspapers to digitize

## o, to go to togo...

"There are no photos for Togo." Thanks for nothing, CIA World Factbook.

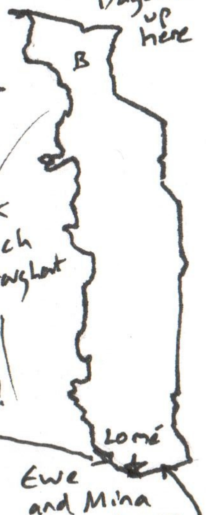


Straightforward flag, if garish, tbh.

Shares a currency with 7 other countries (the West African CFA Franc)

- an area victimized for centuries by slave traders
- Germans grabbed the coast and worked their way inland (hence the shape)
- France nabbed it after WWI
- Finally independent in 1960, but...
- Ruled by a strongman father and his (gradually democratizing) son since 1967

Into voodoo? Buy dead stuff at the Akodessewa Fetish Market!

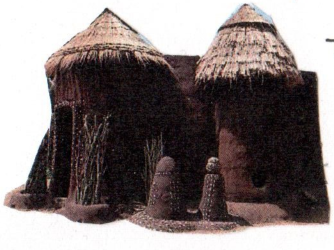


Dagomba up here

Speak French throughout

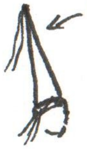
Ewe and Mina down here

"Togo" = "watershore," from the lake here

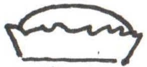


The Batammariba people (B on the map) have a cool "tower house" construction style

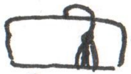
## turns out these HATS have names. Who knew?



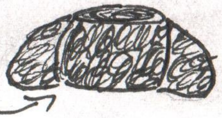
Hennin = the "princess hat"



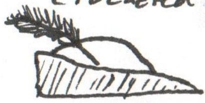
Whoopie cap = the one Jughead wears



Smoking cap = for keeping your hair from smelling like smoke



Montera = a Matador's crocheted hat



Bycocket - the hats Robin Hood is generally depicted in

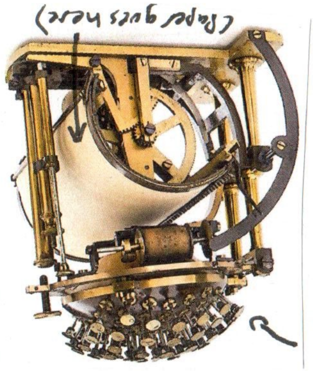
a recent present

TEMPLAR
1300

I always thought it would be incredibly fun to get into coin collecting - not along any specific lines, but just cool ones that I like.
Turns out you need a shitload of modern coins to get any old ones.

there's a term called
★ hopepunk ★
used to describe lit (movies, TV, games, blahblah) where themes of positivity/perseverence/humanity push back against the relentless bleakness of so much fiction (and nonfiction)

I just wish they'd picked a different suffix for something so critical now, instead of lumping it in with cyberpunk
steampunk
atompunk
as just another fantasy.



(Paper goes here)

This is a typewriter. Yes, really. It was a style called the Hansen Writing Ball, made during the 1870s, when typewriter design was still very much up in the air.
It sounds like it could write pretty fast, too.
Imagine what computer keyboards or touch typing interfaces would look like nowadays had this design won out.

## Presque Vu

- a concept similar to déjà vu, but this one means "almost seen". Generally, the feeling of having something at the tip of your tongue.
I think of it a little differently, though - it's a great term for the feeling you sometimes get where you're on the verge of understanding something big - ineffable, maybe, but you just can't get all the way there yet with the connections you are familiar with.